

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of electro discharge machining a passage through a work piece using a hollow electro discharge machining electrode and a corresponding flushing agent supplied via the hollow electrode wherein a discrete backing member is positioned abutting the face of the work piece through which the electrode exits so that at break through of said electrode through said work piece the path of the flushing agent is not disrupted.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the backing member positioned such that it forms a fluid tight seal with the work piece.
3. A method as claimed in claims 1 and 2 wherein the backing member comprises modelling clay.
4. A work piece which has been manufactured according to the method as described in any one of claims 1 to 3.
5. A work piece produced according to claim 4 wherein the work piece is an aerospace component.
6. Apparatus for electro discharge machining a passage through a work piece comprising a hollow electro discharge machining electrode, a corresponding flushing agent supplied via the hollow electrode and a discrete backing member positioned abutting the face of the work piece through which the electrode exits so that at break through of said electrode through said work piece the path of the flushing agent is not disrupted.
7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the backing member comprises modelling clay.